

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] A system 10 for enabling arbitrary components 20-24 to communicate with each other in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, system 10 includes components 20-24, data objects 21b-24b, and universal interfaces 20a-24a. A method in accordance with one embodiment includes obtaining one of the universal interfaces 20a-24a included within one of the data objects 21b-24b and invoking the obtained universal interface to communicate with the component associated with that universal interface. The present invention allows components 20-24 using the same or different transfer mediums and/or communication protocols to communicate without having a priori knowledge of each other.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] An existing component is defined herein as a component that is already enabled to communicate with other components and a new component is defined as a component that is not yet enabled to communicate with ~~other~~ the other components. In this embodiment, each of the components 20-24 comprises a computer system, such as a PDA unit or palm-top computer, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, or a computer server, that can store, process and execute programmed instructions for performing one or more methods of the present invention as described herein and illustrated in the figures, although components 10 may comprise any type of device or system that can store, process and execute instructions for performing one or more methods of the present invention. By way of example only, components 20-24 may also comprise printers, scanners, cellular telephones, display devices, video input/output devices, audio input/output devices, remote control devices or appliances. One or more of the components 20-24 may also comprise any type of device with circuitry that is hard-wired to execute instructions for performing one or more methods of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Components 20-24 may also include computer executable programmed instructions for accessing, controlling and/or operating one or more other components. In this example, a component enables one or more other components that can communicate using one type of communication medium (e.g., wireless network) to communicate with

another component that can communicate using a different type of communication medium (e.g., line-based network). For example, component 21 may be a PDA device that would like to communicate with component 22, which might be a printer device, to print out a file stored therein. However, in this example component 21 may only transfer data through a wireless infrared connection while component ~~21~~ 22 may only transfer data through a parallel cable line. As a result, component 20 may control component 21 and component 22 to allow the two components to communicate with each other and thus transfer data between each other using one or more methods of the present invention as described further herein below. Again, as described above these instructions for accessing, controlling, and/or operating may or may not include instructions for performing one or more methods of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] In another embodiment, each of the interfaces and associated operations therein comprise mobile code. Mobile code is executable data that can be transmitted to another system, or another component within a system, where the data is executed. For example, Java is an implementation of executable content (i.e., mobile code) that is widely used on the Internet. Users can download the mobile code from the Internet, for example, and locally run a program written in a truly common programming language. In this particular embodiment, each of the universal interfaces comprises mobile code that includes instructions that may be performed by components to ~~communicating~~ communicate with each other. Moreover, variables or parameters, and data may be passed or provided to the universal interfaces that will be understood and utilized accordingly by the component associated with the universal interface, depending upon the particular type of communication. Still further, the universal interfaces may comprise sets of instructions or references to other universal interfaces, wherein the component could utilize the data or perform the instructions accordingly.